

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3600) to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purpose.

A bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Mr. MURPHY. I would now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE EURO-NATO JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 424.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 424) commemorating the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Sheppard Air Force Base and the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 424) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 20, 2021 under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, February 9; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclu-

sion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Bush nomination; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Nathan nomination and that following disposition of the Nathan nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bush nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Bush nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening to urge that Congress speak with one voice, at a critical time, on an urgent matter.

The fight for freedom is being waged in Ukraine right now, and the outcome is going to have profound effects not just in Eastern Europe but around the globe.

Russia has invaded Ukraine twice in the last 8 years, illegally annexing Crimea, inserting troops and offensive military equipment into the Donbas region in the east. They have initiated cyber attacks against public and private entities in Ukraine, and they continue to use disinformation to try to destabilize the democratically elected government in Kyiv.

Now, the Russians have gone further by amassing more than 100,000 troops under the command of 100 tactical groups on Russia's Ukrainian border. This Russian deployment includes rockets, tanks, and artillery, and it is no longer just on the eastern border of Ukraine but now on the northern border, where Russian combat troops and heavy equipment have moved into Belarus and in Crimea in the Black Sea area.

Let me give a little history as to how we got here. Eight years ago, Ukraine made a choice. The people of Ukraine stood up to a corrupt Russian-backed government in 2014 and made a conscious decision to turn to the West—to the European Union, to the United States.

I was in Ukraine in 2014 shortly after what is called the Euromaidan or the Revolution of Dignity. When I was there in 2014, the Revolution of Dignity

barricades were still up, and in the center of town, the Maidan was still occupied by Ukrainian patriots who were determined that their country not go backwards.

The Ukrainian people at that time rejected authoritarianism. They said instead they were choosing democracy, freedom of speech, and freedom to gather, respect for the rule of law and free markets—turning to us.

Despite Russia's unrelenting efforts at destabilization over the past 8 years, the Ukrainian people are more committed than ever to an independent, sovereign, and democratic nation. And Ukrainians today are increasingly patriotic and opposed to the Russian efforts to destabilize their country. They don't want state control, repression, and fear; they choose liberty and prosperity.

Moscow would have the world believe that somehow this massive, unwarranted Russian buildup is about trying to shore up its border against threats from Ukraine and NATO. This is, of course, patently false. Ukraine's military posture has always been purely defensive, and, unlike Russia, Ukraine has up held its commitments under the Minsk agreements, which were designed to ensure a ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine in the Donbas region.

NATO, of course, is a defensive alliance and is no threat to Russian territorial integrity. NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg recently told reporters that the "significant movement" of Russian troops into Ukraine's neighbor, Belarus, is the "biggest Russian deployment there since the Cold War." And Russian troop numbers in Belarus are likely to climb to 30,000, with the backing of special forces, advanced fighter jets, short-range ballistic missiles, and S-400 ground-to-air missile defense systems. This is new.

By the way, Ukraine is not asking for us to fight these wars for them. They have been in a war with Russia over the past 8 years. They have lost over 14,000 Ukrainians to this battle, including at the line of contact, where there has been a hot conflict. I have been to the line of contact. I have seen it. I have seen where the Russian snipers have killed Ukrainian soldiers. I have talked to the soldiers from Ukraine, who are determined, committed, and patriotic.

Fourteen thousand people—if you compare the population of Ukraine to our population here in the United States of America, that would be the equivalent of us losing about 120,000 Americans over the past 8 years to an enemy. That is more people than we lost in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined. Think how we would feel. This is how the Ukrainians feel.

Ukraine is not asking, again, for us to fight their war for them, but they are asking for increased lethal military assistance to help defend themselves should Russia make a big mistake and decide to invade further into Ukraine.

When it comes to our allies, I have been pleased that most have really stepped up to help Ukraine during this crisis. The British have provided anti-tank missiles. When I was in Ukraine recently with the congressional delegation, as we left the airport—this was about 3 weeks ago—a cargo plane arrived—an American-made cargo plane—with weapons from the U.K. The United Kingdom was providing anti-tank weapons to Ukraine. I saw them being unloaded, and I saw the smiles on the faces of the Ukrainians knowing that this will give them a better chance to defend themselves. We appreciate the Brits.

The Canadians have helped, specifically recently providing important training on some of the new equipment they are getting. The Danes have helped with additional funding, and the Baltics have transferred weapons as well. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have all been strongly supportive. Poland has been so supportive—and so many others.

We need all of our allies to step up like that—certainly all of our NATO allies but, really, all freedom-loving countries around the world. This is where the cause of freedom is being fought right now.

My hope is that Congress can come together and speak with one voice—Republicans and Democrats alike—pass bipartisan sanctions legislation and an aid package that sends a strong message of support to the Ukrainian people, a message that we stand with them in their fight for freedom but also sends a strong message to Russia that, if they choose to invade further, the armed conflict will carry a heavy cost, the sanctions will be devastating—and, finally, legislation that sends a strong message to the world that the United States stands with its allies in Eastern Europe and throughout freedom-loving countries across the world.

The time to speak is now, with one voice. The world is listening and watching.

JOHN H. LEAHR AND HERBERT M. HEILBRUN POST OFFICE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the Senate floor today to speak in support of a bill sponsored by the entire Ohio delegation naming the post office in Avondale—of Cincinnati, OH—for two World War II aviators: John Leahr and Herbert Heilbrun.

These two remarkable men—one Black and one White—grew up in Avondale, which is a neighborhood which is part of Cincinnati, OH. They dreamed of flying and signed up for the Army Air Corps after Pearl Harbor. John Leahr flew the P-51 Mustang with the Tuskegee Airmen, and Herb Heilbrun flew the B-17 bomber.

The Tuskegee fighters were assigned to protect the bombers in the European theater. John and Herb worked together on some of the same missions, but as World War II airmen, they were segregated and did not interact. They didn't get to know each other until more than 50 years after the war ended.

In 1997, Herb Heilbrun discovered that an event for the Tuskegee Airmen was going to be held in downtown Cincinnati. He decided to stop by and thank the fighter pilots who helped protect him and his bomber and his bomber squad in Europe.

There, Herb met John Leahr, and the two men hit it off and discovered how much they had in common. They found out they had both grown up in Avondale and both spent time waiting for training working at the same engine plant: Wright Aeronautical in Lockland, OH. They realized they had been in the same third grade class at North Avondale Elementary School. Luckily, Herb had saved the class picture; and there, you can see them standing right next to each other, John and Herb.

Their friendship was obviously meant to be. John Leahr had long wanted to make sure people knew about the Tuskegee Airmen and their contributions during the war. Together, John and Herb shared their story with schoolchildren and adults, talking about how things were different in the past and promoting racial understanding and the rejection of bigotry today.

Here they are with a group of young people, Herb and John, with models of the airplanes that they flew.

The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations honored them for their work in 2003, and in 2007, there was a book—“Black and White Airmen: Their True History”—and it recounts their story.

John died in 2015 at the age of 94. Herb died in 2020 at 100 years old.

I believe naming this post office in their neighborhood for John Leahr and Herb Heilbrun is a fitting way to honor the memory of this team, who served our country with bravery and distinction in World War II but then continued an important part of their public service long after their military service ended.

My hope is that this legislation will be passed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis and we can name this post office after these two remarkable men.

(Ms. HASSAN assumed the Chair.)

#### TRIBUTE TO ANGIE YOUNGEN

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, finally, I want to acknowledge someone who is in the Chamber tonight. I want to acknowledge her dedicated service. This is one of my senior staff members,

who is moving to Richmond, VA, to join the new Virginia Governor's administration.

Angie Youngen is an Ohio native and an Ashland University graduate—who is very proud of that—and who was the scheduler for my predecessor, Senator George Voinovich. I have had the good fortune of having her on my team. Her loyalty, hard work, and judgment over the past 8 years is deeply appreciated.

So, Angie Youngen, we will miss you here on Capitol Hill, but best of luck in your new adventure.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:57 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 8, 2022:

##### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HOMER L. WILKES, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

##### THE JUDICIARY

JOHN P. HOWARD III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

LOREN L. ALIKHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

##### ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

CHANTALE YOKMIN WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMY GUTMANN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

LISA A. CARTY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

#### DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations under the authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009 and the nominations were placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to S.Res. 116, 112th Congress:

\*PARISA SALEHI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK.

\*BRIAN MICHAEL TOMNEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.

\*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.